

CHAPTER NO. 166

SENATE BILL NO. 883

By Atchley

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1096

By Buttry, Hagood, Bittle, Boyer, Tindell, Armstrong, Dunn

AN ACT To designate the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville as "The State Theatre of Tennessee".

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville recently celebrated its 70th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Tennessee Theatre holds the distinction of being the only theatre in Tennessee to be named in honor of our great state; and

WHEREAS, Several years ago, the Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation was formed to preserve this historic edifice through non-profit ownership and operation; and

WHEREAS, With the aid of an architectural firm specializing in theatre restorations, plans have been developed for the phased renovation and facility modernization of the 1928 structure; and

WHEREAS, These modifications will add to the versatility of the stage in accommodating opera and stage productions; the Tennessee Theatre's capacity will be restored to its original 1,800 seats, and all occupants will enjoy the new climate control system; and

WHEREAS, As the restoration plans have progressed, it has become abundantly clear that a great number of Tennessee memories reside within the walls of this historic building, as well as in the minds of those fortunate people who once watched the Saturday movies and serials at the Tennessee Theatre; and

WHEREAS, With the capacity to serve a full theatrical spectrum, the Tennessee Theatre will become a unique entity representing the past and projecting the future of the region; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation, in concurrence with the organizations represented thereon, has unanimously requested this General Assembly to recognize the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville as the official state theatre of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly most heartily concurs in this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee Theatre is hereby designated as "The State Theatre of Tennessee".

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 3, 1999


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 17th day of May 1999


DON CONQUIST, GOVERNOR